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Gallagher Charitable Society Brings the Cheer

Pumas provide local families in need with coats, clothing, Christmas gifts.

By Nicole Thomsen
News Writer

The Gallagher Charitable Society held their annual Christmas party on Saturday, December 1st. This holiday event is an annual gathering, and this year marked their 35th Anniversary. The heart of the operation is the donation of coats, clothes, and gifts that have been collected for the less fortunate of Rensselaer and the surrounding area. For this year's event, Saint Joseph's College Rotary Club generously donated large amounts of clothing for the cause. There were a total of twenty-five volunteers working together with the Saint Joseph's College baseball team to put this event together.

At the check-in table, students with reindeer head bands passed out toothbrushes and toothpaste. Once the attendees entered the ballroom, they were dazzled with a winter wonderland. Holiday tunes filled the air. Garland decked the walls. Christmas trees

twirled with colorful lights that illuminated the room, and Saint Joseph's students dressed as elves greeted people and helped out wherever they were needed. Craig Austgen from the Saint Joseph's College baseball team took on the temporary role as Santa Claus. He enjoyed two hours of children explaining why they've been good this year and what they would like for Christmas.

Multiple stations were set up for pure fun and entertainment. One of the booths consisted of face painting that was run by some of the Saint Joseph's Art students. There were also stations set up for arts and crafts, where kids could make houses out of Popsicle sticks. After that, they could decorate them. They also had materials ready for children who wanted to make holiday book marks. They even had supplies to make small decorative snowmen. There were also been stations set up where children could enjoy festive games. Some of the other booths consisted of cookies and drinks.

There was a huge turnout for



Above: Freshman Baseball player Craig Austgen holds two youngsters who tell him that they've been good and what they would like for Christmas. Photo courtesy of Fr. Tim MacFarland.

this year's event. J. C. Rodriguez, who has spent three years as President of the Gallagher Charitable Society, commented, "We had a total of three hundred and eighty five people sign up and all of them came. The numbers have increased almost every year since I've been here." He went on to say, "This is my fifth year being involved in the event, I'm happy to have had the chance to

be involved for so long. Once I've graduated, and moved away I plan on starting my own Christmas Charity, similar to this one. It's really just a great event and I'd like to see more of them." This is an all student-run event, so if you would like to get involved for next year and help spread the holiday cheer, feel free to contact any Gallagher Charitable Society member.

Choir and Orchestra Herald the Christmas Season

Christmas concerts performed by the Concert Choir and Orchestra are a hit

By Allison Stanton
News Writer

On December 2nd, Saint Joseph's College choirs and newly-founded orchestra displayed their talent. The orchestra, under direction of Professor Maxim Zheleznyak, performed at two o'clock in the afternoon. Professor Zheleznyak is new to Saint Joseph's College, and is a wonderful addition to the expanding music department. The orchestra's performance pieces included *Für Elise*, a twist on the classic *Jingle Bells*.

Also on Sunday at four o'clock, the choir sang at the campus's annual Lessons & Carols service. Lessons & Carols is, traditionally, a service provided to allow the congregation to reflect upon nine readings of the Scripture and prayer (nine lessons), which recount many

different aspects of Catholic beliefs regarding Advent and the Christmas season. With the chapel decorated for the Christmas season, the atmosphere affected the experience almost as much as the music. After each reading and prayer, the choir sang a song reflecting the lesson described in the reading.

Under the direction of Professor Kelly Ford, the choir sang many different Christmas carols, many of which the congregation were encouraged to sing along with. One particular highlight of the service was the choir's performance of Handel's *Hallelujah Chorus*. The choir presented this song, one of the most popular pieces of music ever written, with strength and emotion. During a few of the carols, the orchestra accompanied the organ and choir to create a sound that certainly represents the

Christmas season. A few trumpet players and a timpani player also provided musical accompaniment.

Lessons & Carols concluded with tranquility as the choir performed *Silent Night* while

holding candles. December 2nd was a day filled with beautiful music and a chance for fellow Pumas to support the ever-expanding music department at Saint Joseph's College.

Below: Photo courtesy of Fr. Tim McFarland, C.P.P.S. Concert Choir students sing in the chapel during the Lessons and Carols performance.



Students give up break to volunteer

Habitat for Humanity group takes Thanksgiving trip

By Alycia Tassone
Dan Amador
Guest Writers

During Thanksgiving break, a group of Pumas left for North Carolina to help the Habitat for Humanity branch in the town of Rocky Mount. They were gone from November 17 through the 20 assisting in building houses for families in need. This was Saint Joseph's College's 14th trip for Habitat.

The objective of the trip was to help out the Habitat society by finishing houses to make them available to people in need of good safe homes. On Saturday, the group of volunteers painted houses and helped furnish the inside of homes by scraping wallpaper. The following day, the volunteers were able to enjoy some leisure time and bond with their fellow students. They relaxed at the Outer Banks beach, visited a lighthouse near the beach, and took in the sights

of the Wright Brothers National Memorial.

They returned to work on Monday, accomplishing an large amount of yard work that included raking, shoveling, brushing and burning debris.

Habitat first-timer, junior Elementary Education major, Danielle Snyder said, "The most rewarding part was seeing everything we did as a group. Everybody came together and worked to get things done and seeing everything finished was a great feeling."

Another first time volunteer, sophomore Wildlife Ecology major, Jordan Guimond, said the most rewarding part of this experience for him was "seeing the SJC community get so much done in so little time." Saint Joseph's College alumnus and Director of Event Services, Ethan Avina, stated that he took a lot away from his first Habitat trip. "Not only did I get to meet some



Photo courtesy of sophomore Jordan Guimond. The Habitat for Humanity team visited the Wright Brothers National Memorial during the trip.

great people from North Carolina and get to know some great Pumas, but I got to witness the true volunteer spirit from a great group of Saint Joseph students. Seeing the group bond at the work sites, driving for fourteen hours,

and giving up their own 'break' was an experience I will not soon forget," he said.

For those who are interested in becoming involved, there is an upcoming trip to Nicaragua in May of 2013. To get more

information about Habitat for Humanity, contact Prof. Fred Berger at fredb@saintjoe.edu, or visit the Habitat for Humanity of SJC Facebook page.

Upcoming Puma Events



12/07 Night of Empowerment
12/08 MAC Christmas at the Zoo
12/08 Admissions Event: Puma to Puma Day
12/10 Campus Christmas Celebration
12/13 Christmas Break begins

Campus looks toward next semester

By Alex Yong
News Writer

For next semester, the College will be seeing a transition to the Google servers for mail. Already, the faculty and a small number of students have switched over to the new mail servers, but during the second semester, the entire campus will switch over to the Google servers.

As mentioned in a previous article, the email is just like Gmail, so anyone familiar with that will be right at home with the new interface. The new Google servers offer 24/7 technical support, better spam filters, and cloud storage, where users can store *any* file they have online, meaning that students won't have to lug around flash drives that are always getting lost to print out papers. As long as a computer has internet access to Google's servers, they can access their files anywhere in the world.

Besides, having cloud storage, students can also create documents on the servers, papers, presentations, and spreadsheets and work on them with another student. Have a group presentation? One student can work on one slide, while another works on another, at the same time!

If you wish to switch over to

the Gmail interface early, all you need to do is send an email to Professor Brian Capouch that you are interested in the new interface, and would like email delivery. When he emails you back, telling you that you are on, sign on at mail.saintjoe.edu, and enjoy the new interface! You will be able to use the old webmail until it is finally shut down.

The techies group on campus has been setting up a gaming server for the students to access. Currently, only the game *Minecraft* is on it, but the group plans to expand. The server is open to any SJC student, and you can access it through redstone.saintjoe.edu through Minecraft's server browser. However, you must be whitelisted, or in other words, approved so you can access it. Contact techies at techies@saintjoe.edu with your *Minecraft* username, and you will be allowed in. If you have any suggestions for PC games that can be hosted on the server, contact techies at the same address, and let them know!

Next semester, PAC will be hosting 90s night on January 17th, which will serve up 90s music, food and games. February will see Love Week, and Humans vs. Zombies will be making a come back some time in late March or early April.

Students give up shirts for homeless youth

Annual Covenant House Vigil success

By Joey Krisch
Guest Writer

The 22nd Annual Covenant House Vigil this year was a huge success, with two hundred plus in attendance. Many Saint Joseph's College students attended as well as faculty, residents of Rensselaer, and the students of St. Augustine Elementary School, who graced the vigil with choral music. The Puma Men's and Women's Soccer Teams sponsored the event and both attended as well. Several players even actively participated by reading petitions or speaking.

The vigil started out in complete darkness, and as everyone came in they received a candle. They spread out around the church and waited for the vigil

to begin. At first, no one but the reader at the podium could be seen. Half way through the vigil, the participants began lighting their candles until everyone in the chapel could be seen.

In addition, the Puma Soccer Teams participated in the annual "Pumas Take off Their Shirts to Stop the Hurt for the Kids of Covenant House" t-shirt drive. The players collected new and gently used t-shirts. All of their donations were boxed up and sent to the Covenant House Headquarters, where they will be distributed to those in need.

The Covenant House was founded in 1972, and has helped more than a million of America's youth by providing food, shelter, and many other services.

The annual service not only brings the campus and the city of Rensselaer together, but it also reaches out to those in need across the nation. It is a truly unique experience. Senior Elementary Education Major and Lady Puma Soccer Player Allie Reiners said, "The candlelight vigil is a great way to come together as a community and give to the less fortunate."

Photo courtesy of Br. Tim Hemm, C.P.P.S. Students and community members gathered in the chapel for the annual Covenant House Vigil. All participants carried candles during the service.



Washington Partisan Warfare

By Seth Arthur
Guest Writer

Drawing from Colby Alexis’s article, “2012 Election,” found in the previous Observer, I would like to introduce a necessary discussion about modern day politics on Capitol Hill. I believe that Colby’s article made some important observations about how politicians today seem to be dishonest and willing to engage in almost any activity in order to be elected. Though I believe that is the unfortunate reality of politics in Washington, I think there is a plausible explanation as to why politics seem so dirty, especially in recent times. I would argue that much of the ugly politics can be attributed to the partisan-driven mentality in Washington. A deeply rooted ideological battle seems to be preventing politicians from serving the nation in an ethical manner. This mind-set, which both parties seem to embody, of “us” versus “them” has truly crippled politicians’ abilities to choose the ethical path. As Colby brought to attention in

his last article, lies, rhetoric, and partisan induced hatred dominated the recent Presidential election. This thought process that, “I hope the enemy doesn’t win,” has significantly contributed to and aggrandized the partisan warfare on Capitol Hill. As a result of the partisan politics, politicians are left to be dishonest and harsh in their conduct. By no means am I creating excuses for their behavior, as I find it to be as unfortunate as Colby, but I do think the cut-throat atmosphere has encouraged dishonest politics. At some point politicians need to understand that their duties as representatives of the general public require them to supply the public with honest answers to the difficult questions. We as citizens too often stand idly by and accept and believe the



rhetoric that is spouted from the mouths of politicians. The only way to cease the dirty politics is to embrace bipartisanship. Our politicians must strive to reach across the partisan divide and do what is best for the nation. Not only would this better serve the American people, but it would also end a good portion of the hateful politics. If politicians answer the difficult questions our nation faces by telling citizens what the other party cannot do or won’t do, instead of what both parties in union can achieve, then the difficult questions will never actually be answered. However, I am not ignorant or foolish enough to believe bipartisanship can be achieved overnight. Passionate ideological and partisan differences are deeply seeded within us. I too

have witnessed first hand the difficulty and challenges of compromise. Last year in my political science class, Presidency and Congress, Professor Peter Watkins asked the students in a discussion of bipartisanship in Congress, if anyone would be able to compromise with an opposing party on issues such as the economy, abortion, taxes, immigration, or healthcare. Not one single student could provide an issue in which they would budge from their initial stance in order to compromise with the opposing party. This displays just how deeply engrained partisan politics are within us. However, the only way for our nation to move forward and leave the dishonest and deceitful politics behind, is to fully embrace bipartisanship. The sooner our politicians and governmental leaders participate in bipartisanship and focus on national interests instead of party interests, the sooner America will truly show its greatness and potential.

Apartments: Worth the Money?

By Josie Lenart
Guest Writer

“I am paying \$825 more to live in the Apartments; where is my money going?” This is a concern voiced by residents in the Apartments. As someone who has lived in the Apartments for two years, I too have wondered this. We want our facilities to reflect the price we pay. However, it is obvious to those living there that they do not.

When the Residential Suites (commonly known as the Apartments) were built in 1998, they gleamed with coveted newness, but now they lack luster. After fourteen years and hundreds of residents, thousands of spills, countless parties, and an immeasurable amount of memories, the apartments are exhausted. Carpets have stains, refrigerators leak, and bathrooms appear moldy.

Updates have been made over the years. Steve Williams has worked with Physical Plant since the Apartments were built and knows of the changes to the Apartments. Every year the roofs get repaired, paint is applied to every room, and carpets are steamed. The college has also replaced the original doors with sturdier ones. Regular maintenance is done on all the water heaters throughout the year. While repairs are done yearly on the Apartments, Physical Plant relies heavily on work orders from the residents to inform them when something is not working properly and either needs repaired or updated.

If you notice two different types of carpeting in an apartment, chances are the original carpet was replaced. However, for the apartments that have a continuous gray colored carpet, that is the original. That is

fourteen year old carpet! A “deep” clean once a year cannot retract all of the grime and nastiness accumulated on the floor. There comes a time when the decision needs to be made to replace the carpets even if a complaint has not been directly made through a work order.

Appliances depreciate. Most of the apartments contain the original appliances. When it is a cheap refrigerator to begin with, it is unrealistic to expect it to last fourteen years. There are countless complaints of refrigerators not working properly. Most common problems are leaks. Personally, my apartment experienced a bunch of water in our refrigerator the first week of school. We tried changing the temperature it was set at but nothing worked. We placed a work order, and within a day, we had a “new” refrigerator. I stress the word new because this refrigerator has proved to be worse. We still get the inch of water in the bottom of the drawers. In addition, now we lack a shelf in the fridge, and the rack is broken in the freezer. We are then faced with the decision of, do we place another work order or not? Instead of just replacing a refrigerator, address the root of the problem—why is every refrigerator experiencing similar malfunctions?

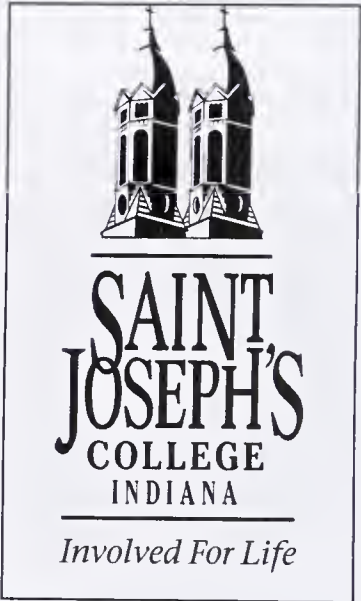
Bathrooms are a sketchy room to begin with, and then add in the fact that who knows how many people have used it over the years. With that in mind, when one walks into a bathroom of an apartment and sees large dark areas around the base of the bathtub and the toilet, it is impossible not to suspect mold. Especially when the questionable spots are in areas with a lot of exposure to moisture. This was the case for me and my

roommates last school year. We were concerned that our bathroom contained mold underneath our bathroom tile. We were assured, however, that it was merely the glue used for the linoleum. The appearance was bad, and Housing and Physical Plant worked with us and agreed to replace the tile over Thanksgiving Break. While this was nice, and very much appreciated, why was glue used that gives the appearance of mold?

It is difficult to have big projects because there is little time for repairs to be made. Camps are held throughout the summer and therefore Physical Plant cannot tear up carpets or replace tile. This is understandable when the entire Physical Plant consists of four men and they have other obligations as well. However, a few temporary workers could be hired for the projects in order for them to be completed faster. Also with an extra week for Winter Break, hopefully more work will be able to get done.

So where does our money go to? It is hard to believe that it is going to all these different repairs and “updates” done to the apartments. Also, we do not receive any housekeeping, we do not receive trash cans or bags, we do not receive any cleaning products, and we do not even receive any toilet paper. Put simply, the money paid to live in the Apartments is the amount one is willing to pay for a private room with the social environment and the housing that is considered by many as the best option on campus. As Maggie Dugan said, “Once you live in the Apartments, you can’t imagine going back to living in the dorms.”

Special thanks to Stephanie Brouwer and Steve Williams for meeting with me regarding the Apartments.



Puma Pride

By Katie Dittman
Guest Writer

This year one of my main priorities has been to put PUMA PRIDE back into this campus. The past few years our school has been slightly lacking in supporting our fellow pumas in all they do, whether it be sports, the arts, or academics, and I know that we all could use a little support! I have always been proud to be a puma, and I am now proud to say that after this year, there are more and more students that agree. I hope that the increase in school spirit only continues to grow. I love this school, and I know that my fellow students feel the same way. So next time you have some free time, go to a sporting event, go to a band or choir concert, or to a play, do something different! You never know, you might like it! It is always great to be a Puma!

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You'll Adore This Novel

By **Randee Portteus**
News Co-Editor

In *The Adoration of Jenna Fox*, Jenna Fox awakes from a coma after eighteen months to parents, a house, and a life she doesn't remember at all. As she delves into her past through home videos and discussions with her parents, grandmother, and a curious neighbor, she discovers only more and more questions. Who exactly is Jenna Fox and what exactly happened in the accident that caused her coma?

The novel is by Mary E. Pearson, a young adult author. Her other works include *Scribbler of Dreams* (something I read way back in fifth grade) and *A Room on Lorelei Street*, both realistic fiction that were fairly well-received in the YA community. *The Adoration of Jenna Fox* was something a bit out of Pearson's comfort zone, and the reasons I've decided to review it are good ones.

First, *The Adoration of Jenna Fox* is lightly sci-fi, nothing heavy, no Orson Scott Card or Ray Bradbury, but it has just a touch. More than this, what really caught my attention and drew

me into the book were the ethical questions. How far is too far to save a life? When is someone truly dead? And what makes us human? Our flesh and blood, or something deeper?

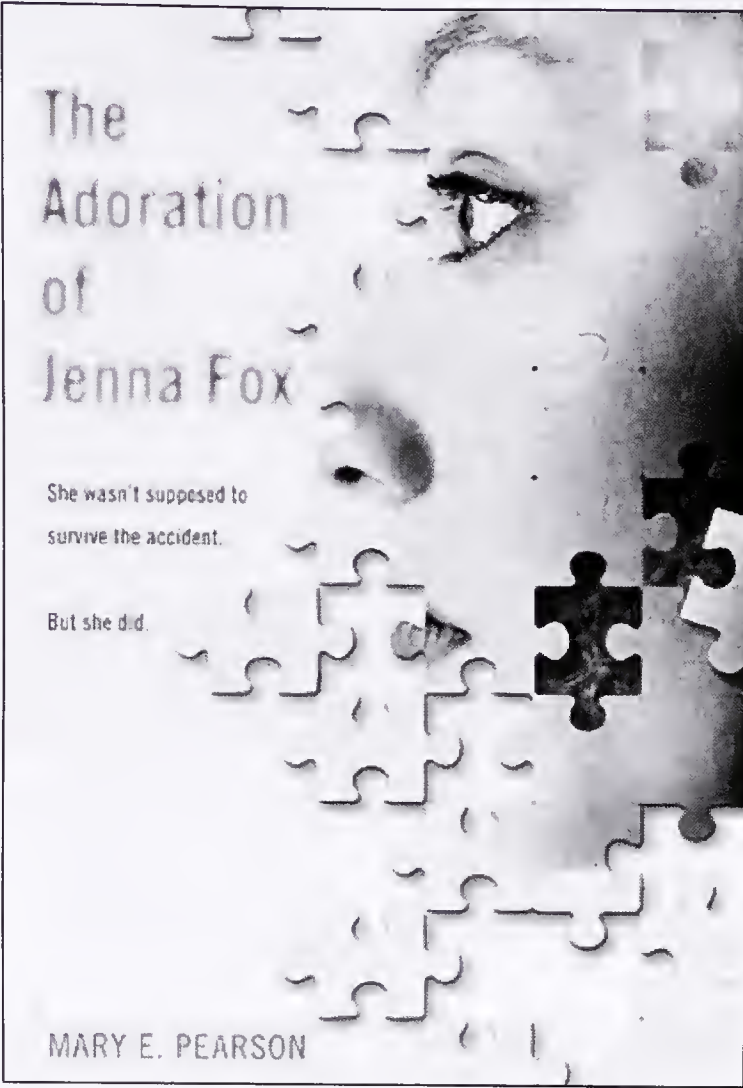
These questions are addressed by Pearson with a sort of poetry that isn't often found in young adult fiction. Often things are blatantly bulldozed over, overtly laid out as though today's youth is too stupid to pick up on subtlety. Pearson manages to address the questions she writes about gracefully and lightly, never giving an outright answer, but rather letting the reader come to his own conclusion, something that isn't seen enough in my opinion.

The book was received well for the engaging storyline, the interesting themes, and the delicacy with which Pearson handled them. In my opinion, most reviewers were right. As could be expected, there were a few hokey spots throughout the book that made me cringe. It's a story about a seventeen-year-old girl after all. If something weren't a little cringe-worthy, I'd be worried. They are easily

skated over for more realistic and thought-provoking pieces of the novel. Pearson followed *The Adoration of Jenna Fox* up with a companion/sequel novel entitled *The Fox Inheritance*, which didn't receive quite as many happy reviews. The last book in the trilogy is entitled *Fox Forever* and is due to come out this upcoming March.

Overall, I'd give the novel four out of five stars. The meat of the novel was good, though I can't ignore the few spots that tripped me up and made me pause. I'd recommend giving it a try, even if it's not your usual cup of tea. If it is, this book was read a few semesters ago in the Young Adult Literature class taught by Maia Hawthorne, so you could give that class a try and read other current top-notch young adult lit books. 'Tis the season, right? Try something new! And Happy Holidays.

I guess there are a lot of Fox families in the paper lately! (Like Ben and Kate Fox from last issue). Although this novel is nothing like that show, it's a great read even for people who don't want to see themselves as young adult readers.



Finally, the End of the Twilight Saga



By **Patrick N. Massoels**
Staff Writer

For the last five years or so, there have been seven words that no man in a relationship has wanted to hear: "Let's go see the new Twilight movie."

At long last, the story is at an end. And that means that there will be no unwilling victims dragged to those poor excuses for cinema. Half of those movies are literally filled with dramatic stares and nothing more. So why is it that so many people around the world love these movies? Let's be honest. It's the fact that there are ripped guys without shirts. I highly doubt it's the sparkly vampires that won over the crowds. We get enough of that with Tinker Bell.

So, how does the story conclude? It manages to reach right out and temporarily stop the hearts of every teenaged stalker in the theater for just a moment. It will drive some to the verge of panic and screams.

In *Breaking Dawn: Part 2*, Bella (played by one of the worst actresses ever, Kristen Stewart) is now a vampire and has to join together with Edward (Robert Pattinson) and the werewolves in order to defend her daughter, who has one of the most ridiculous names ever to be spoken on screen. The superior clan of

vampires, the Volturi, views this child as an abomination and a danger. So war is declared.

Based on the best selling novels, this movie does an absolutely brilliant job of keeping girls on the edges of their seats and boys fast asleep in theirs. There are a plethora of new characters added, a new romance plot twist that leans toward the pedophilic, and a fight scene that isn't what you think it is. Don't let the trailer fool you. There might be a considerable amount of action in these teasers, but this movie is no different than the others. It still contains a great deal of dramatic stares that fill nearly half of the movie.

When the final theater drops this movie, there will be parades of nien dancing in the streets now that this catastrophe of a film series has finally ended.

Could it have been infinitely more successful if Bella was capable of producing a smile or even speaking without random, awkward pauses? Absolutely. But these are the cards we've been dealt. It's about time we fold and wait for the next hand. Fortunately, the teen masses will have a new novel from Stephanie Meyer, *The Host*, to see corrupted and destroyed on the big screen. Thank you Summit Entertainment for all the wasted moments.

Crystal Castles: Alice Breaks the Glass

By **Corey Dowds**
Features Co-Editor

Crystal Castles, an electronic dance group with heavy subject matter, recently released their third studio album appropriately named *III*. I'll cut to the chase: The collection of songs include all your favorite "beeps" and "boops" of a song that you get down to on the dance floor, sprinkled with lyrics of how society is the epitome of a backwards perversion. Without some investigation, you could be dancing to some fairly depressing phrases.

"Place the ash on their foreheads
An impression to embed
Born-Again before teething
Collect tears from their weeping"

Whether your interpretation of these lines are the same as mine (something along the lines of parents making decisions for you- subjects involving control, religion, etc.) We can all agree that these lines aren't exactly Daft Punks "Stronger." It gives

Crystal Castles two different dimensions- a light-hearted dance beat, coupled with strong themes of moral and societal injustices. Quite the combo eh?

Alice Glass, the female singer and lyricist of Crystal Castles kind of epitomizes this enigma. Her heavily gothic appearance does not match the beats her partner and producer Ethan Kath makes. In a recent interview, she seems like she does not to take herself too seriously, even when addressing issues she believes are important. Dismissing all of the interviewers questions, she answered all of her own questions. "I hate the word edgy" most likely dismissing accusations of Crystal Castles' intentions to be so. "One in twelve women are sexually abused in America" responded Glass to no question in particular. If nothing else, Crystal Castles seems to be a genuine expression of the confusion, anger, and overall mistrust of the world they live in. Music seems to be their escape, albeit they seem to be a bit abrasive about their music and existence. Ethan Kath

seems to epitomize this sentiment in a quote about their live shows, responding via email:

"I don't think in terms like that. for me the live show is a celebration that we can agree on something in a confusing world full of bullshit."

III is a great indicator of this genuine expression. The more you listen, the more you like. Once you start to indulge in the deeper parts of the music, meaning the lyric meaning and value, you can appreciate it even more. Even if you find CC "edgy" or just too crude, you can still appreciate their music (That's my motto for my boy Kanye too!). *III* is also an indicator of CC coming into a legitimate maturity of sorts. Instead of the two slumped in front of some high school bleachers for their first album cover, they now show a clothed woman clutching to what appears to be an emotionally distraught man. Mix in their second album cover, a small girl in front of a gravestone, you can see the gradual progression of morbidity and seriousness in their covers, which, overall, is a reflection of the music itself.

III might be their best piece of music yet. Tracks such as "Pale Flesh" and "Insulin" have me hooked. "Pale Flesh" takes a rap beat, electronic sounds, and the lyrics that I posted above as a serious contrast. The great thing about *III* is that everyone likes something different, or at least that has been my experience. If you want to try something totally new, something seemingly light, but under the surface an adventure of the dark minds of a particularly enigmatic duo, check out *III*. It's got *III* thumbs up from yours truly!



Why We Broke Up

By Kristina Hemmerling
Features Co-Editor

Why We Broke Up is a young adult novel written by Daniel Handler and illustrated by Maira Kalman. Yes, I said illustrated—that means there are pictures in a novel for teens that is not a graphic novel. Sounds odd, but I found it to be interesting, different, and the art was tasteful. I mean, I liked the pictures and they were very stylistic and well-done. The premise of the novel is that Min, short for Minevra, Green is writing a letter to her now ex-boyfriend Ed Slaterton. She’s the “different” girl who enjoys movies and coffee while he’s the typical senior jock in high school.

The novel is interesting because the whole novel itself is set up to be the letter to Ed explaining why they broke up,

as can be guessed from the title. There are no defined chapters necessarily, but each time a new image is shown, a new part of their relationship is revealed as is another reason they broke up.

Min and Ed meet at her best friend’s birthday party, a party Ed wasn’t even invited to. Although she had seen him before, her attraction to him in this setting

causes her to look for him and they actually talk. What’s more, he asks if he can call her. Min tries to act as though it’s no big deal, but days later the two are on a date and shortly after that they’re saying “I love you.”

I have conflicting feelings about this novel. On the one hand I love it. The characterization is great, the inclusion of the images

is great, the voice of the narrator is great, the scenes of typical high school relationships are great. On the other hand, parts of this novel are utterly unbelievable. When I opened this book I thought that the relationship was between two twenty-year-olds. Once I realized it was about a high school relationship I figured that it was a long relationship that had ended a

long time before the novel again. I was wrong again.

What I’m saying is that the problem is and isn’t the narrator. In many ways Min is a perfect sixteen or seventeen-year-old junior in high school, but in other ways she’s not. Min gets angry and cries and throws temper tantrums and hates her mom. But Min also uses big words (explained as SAT prep or the equivalent) she probably wouldn’t know, she quotes more movies than some people have seen in a lifetime, and in general she acts too mature. I realize that many teens today do just that, but reading it in a novel made it seem almost forced.

All in all I enjoyed this book very much, and I encourage anyone who likes teen drama/romance and some random art to check it out.



Here is an example of some of the art in *Why We Broke Up*. Maira Kalman has a very distinct style that borders on realism but holds a very stylistic look. These are bottle caps that Min kept from the first night she and Ed met; it was the bitter ale offered at her best friend’s Bitter Sweet Sixteen party. Image courtesy of Google images.

American Idol has an Actual Winner: Phillip Phillips

By Nicole Thomsen
Features Writer

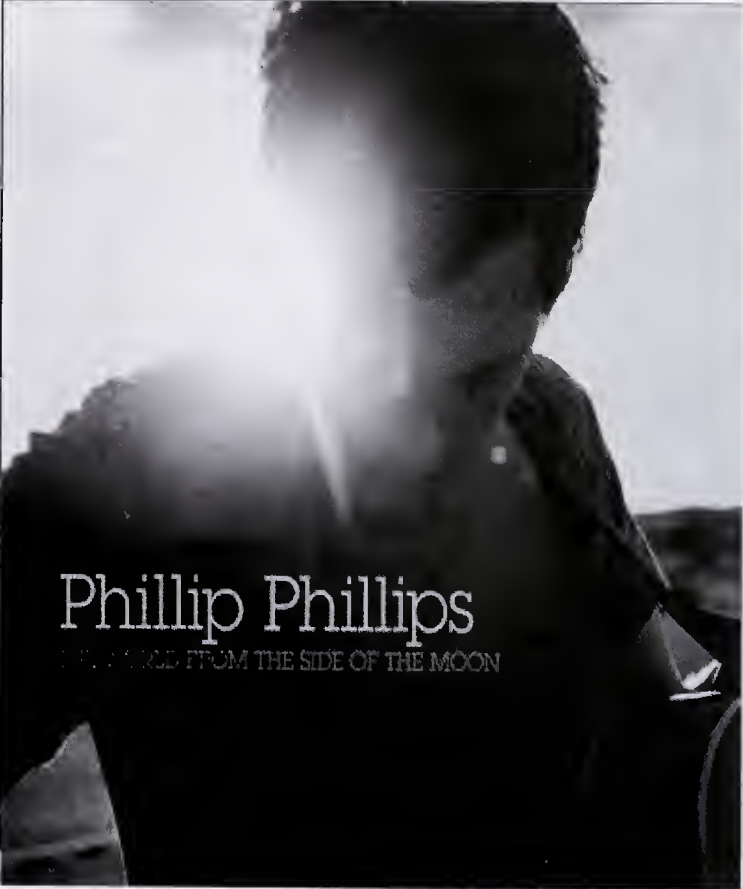
For those of you who follow American Idol, you may have heard that their most recent winner, Phillip Phillips has just released his debut album, “The World from the Side of the Moon”. Besides the minor detail that his title is delightfully impossible to remember his album has overbearingly fulfilled the anticipation prior to its release. Phillips has a natural growl that is not only warming but very similar to the one and only Dave Mathews. On Idol, Phillips refused to cave to the pressure of the judges; throughout the entire show he completely honored his intentions. If you did happen to see the show you will know exactly what his album sounds like.

It’s really a cross between Mumford & Sons and Dave Mathews. The comfort of home seems to be the underlining theme; hints of it can be found in almost all his songs. I think what makes the album so successful is that it’s relatable. In fact, he is most known for his hit, “Home” which has already been certified as double platinum. He played his hit for the first time on crowning night for American Idol. “Home” also became the theme song for this past Olympics, giving it world-wide recognition. In addition to singing, Philips also plays guitar, bass, piano, and drums.

From a personal standpoint, I felt his album has greatly surpassed his fellow idol winners. While they all seem to have produced somewhat successful albums, Phillips has the meaning

that they lack. “The World from the Side of the Moon” is undoubtedly country-esque or in simpler terms, folk-based. The album consists of twelve songs. Most of the album was co-written but the last two tracks, “Home” and “So Easy,” were written by Phillips himself. There is also a Deluxe edition of the album, which contains fifteen songs. The original twelve are on it along with a Phillips original “Hazel,” a cover of Chris Isaak’s “Wicked Game,” and of course a live version of “Home”. Moreover, a Target Deluxe edition has been released as well. This edition

includes two more songs than the Deluxe edition. These consist of a co-written song “Take Me Away” and Phillips’ very own rearrangement of Michael Jackson’s “Thriller.” Which just so happens to be the very same song that won him his ticket to Hollywood at the Season 11 audition for “American Idol.” I’d say this album is a worth-while buy. It has ranged from \$14.99 to \$26.99 depending on what edition you buy. If you have run out of money, don’t fret! Hint it to Mom and Dad; Christmas is just around the corner!



World From the Side of the Moon. See how the side of his face is almost not visible? It’s like the other side of moon, which is all dark and stuff. Cool huh? Photo courtesy of Google images.

An Enjoyable Film: Rise of the Guardians

By Jennie Weer
Features Writer



Rise of the Guardians is a cute, funny film about the legends of the holidays and what they actually do: protect the world from the evil Boogieman. Image courtesy of Google Images.

My first reaction to my brother inviting me to see *Rise of the Guardians* was... You gotta be kidding me. A cartoon? I am in college and it’s my first long break back at home. I want to see something epic and cool! Not something a bundle of kids are going to be at. But, as the day went on, I realized I’m the number one fan of Phineas and Ferb and I’m counting down the days till *Monsters Inc 3D* is released. It was kind of silly for me to act like I’m sophisticated and watch documentaries all the time. Plus, I was willing to do anything to get out of my quiet house. So I tagged along with him and his kids to see this movie. By the end of the movie, I laughed, cried, and left more than satisfied with the whole production.

Rise of the Guardians is an animated movie centered on the character Jack Frost, whose voice is Chris Pine (Also stars in *Star Trek*, and *This Means War*). Upon discovering his ‘center’ and what made him become worthy of being a guardian in his past life, he teams up with the other guardians

(Santa, the Tooth Fairy, the Easter Bunny, and the Sandman)to rid the earth of the Boogie Man who has replaced the children’s dreams with nightmares. Alec Baldwin (*30 Rock*), Jude Law (Watson in the new *Sherlock Holmes*), Isla Fischer (the voice of Beans in *Rango*, and Hugh Jackman play the other guardians’ voices and do a fantastic job.

The best part of this film was the comedy. If there are any cons to this movie, the biggest is how slow it takes for the comedy to kick in. In all honesty, it wouldn’t have broken my heart if I had to walk out in the first half hour, which is how long it took before the good parts came. But once they came, they lasted the rest of the movie.

Like myself, you might shy away from the idea of watching an animated film, but I guarantee you’ll get a giggle. In addition, with characters like Jack Frost and Santa it’ll boost your Christmas spirit and make the season that much more enjoyable!

Pumas Wrap Up Football

By Patrick Wilson
Sports Writer

Head football coach Corey Sanders and his Saint Joseph's College Pumas just finished up their 2012 football season filled with ups and downs. In the final game of the season the Pumas came out with a strong outing at McKendree University in Lebanon, Illinois, that concluded with a 24-19 victory.

Coming into a season in which the Pumas lost half of their starters from the previous year, spectators would have expected a down year. However, Coach Sanders, in just his second year, led a very young football team to a 6-5 record that was engineered by an explosive offense. That offense was led by standout juniors Billy VandeMerkt (Quarterback) and wide receiver Julian Walker. VandeMerkt entered the record books with 211 completions in just 350 attempts and threw for 2,417 yards with 25 touchdowns and 11 interceptions for the season. He also led the Pumas in rushing totaling 443 yards and 4 touchdowns.

For wide receiver Julian Walker this, his third year, was the first break-out year of his career. He broke the college record with 94 catches for 1082 yards and 11 touchdowns through the air. Just when you think that was one heck of a season, he also completed 3 of 3 passes for 3 touchdowns. Talk about a weapon!

On Defense, not many players stood out statistically, however,



The Pumas ended their season with a 6-5 record. Photo courtesy of Fr. Tim McFarland, C.P.P.S.

the importance of the playmakers cannot be denied. With injuries a constant, Coach Sanders placed pieces all over as if he were trying to figure out a puzzle and what he found out was that he had young playmakers all over the field. Linebackers Joel Wimbley and Gary Yeoman were the team leaders in tackles and time and again were asked to make impact plays when needed. The secondary was commanded by fifth-year corner Kevin Isom who had one interception on the year. On the defensive side of the ball, the Pumas were led by Senior

Chad Sprayberry, who had three sacks on the year, which tied him for the most on the team.

Looking back at the 6-5 record the Pumas posted, initially it may seem a little inconsistent, but coming into a year where people didn't expect too much, this could be a cornerstone season for bigger and better things. The defense, which very well could be as good as the offense next season, is graduating no more than two possibly three starters. As for the offense, it could potentially return all eleven starters as

well as all the running backs. Looking at the roster as a whole, except for losing three seniors to graduation and barring any transfers or any Redshirt-Junior graduations/non-returns, Sanders will have virtually his entire roster returning next season. Though that is likely to change, the fact that this is a possibility must leave coach Sanders, the Alumni, and the entire fan base at ease going into next season which will unquestionably will be filled with high expectations in its second year as a member of the GLVC.

Upcoming Games

December 6th

Men's Basketball vs Cedarville University (Ohio)
7:30 p.m.

December 8th

Women's Basketball vs Bethel College
1:00 p.m.

December 17th

Men's Basketball vs Trinity Christian College (Ill.)
7:00 p.m.

December 19th

Women's Basketball at Taylor University

December 28th

Women's Basketball at Oakland City University

January 3rd, 2013

Women's Basketball at Rockhurst University

January 5th

Women's Basketball at William Jewell College

Pumas Fall to Superior Shooting



By Bisrat Desta
Sports Writer

The Saint Joseph's College women's basketball team traveled to Michigan this past Saturday looking for that elusive first victory of the season. It was a low scoring affair due to good defensive play by both teams, but the Pumas fell short at the end in a 59-48 loss to Concordia University. The lady Pumas held the Cardinals to 34% shooting

but could not capitalize on that, only shooting 28% themselves illustrating the poor shooting performance of both teams.

The Cardinals, who are 5-3 for the season, seemed to be a hard match-up for Saint Joe on paper, but the Pumas put in a good effort. They could not quite close the deal as the Cardinals put them away late with some clutch free throws.

"We played hard, we just couldn't match their intensity late in the game" said freshman Laura Furrer, a guard on the team. The Pumas started the game out well scoring the first basket of the game, and got 6 first half points from Furrer. They went into a slump in the middle of the first half which allowed the Cardinals to get back in the game and take the lead by 11.

The Pumas came out in the second half on fire as they went on a 12-4 run to cut the lead down to 3. As the game was winding down the Cardinals took advantage of what they do best free throw

shooting and closed the game out as they shot 15-18 from the charity stripe. That seemed to be the key factor that put away the Pumas for good. SJC scoring leaders were Victoria Wolke a junior transfer from Lakeland College, and sophomore Shaquina Scott, who scored 11 points each. SJC also got good contribution from their bench that combined for 18 points.

The Lady Pumas will travel to Urbana University (Ohio) this Saturday looking for their first victory as they fell to 0-4 for the season after the defeat to Concordia. They will come home for a game against Bethel College on December 8th, but get right back on the road for four consecutive games. Two of those road games are conference games and are important games for the Pumas who need those wins in order to make NCAA tournament at the end of the season.



Top: Courtney Kvachkoff looks to shoot as the bench behind her cheers her on. Photo courtesy of Fr. McFarland, C.P.P.S.

Bottom: Junior transfer Victoria Wolke was one of the leading scorers for the day. Photo courtesy of Fr. Tim McFarland, C.P.P.S.

Pumas Build as Season Starts

By Jon Smith
Sports Staff Writer

The Saint Joseph's men's basketball team season is now fully underway. So far the Pumas have played in five contests and have a current record of 2-3.



Photo by Fr. Tim McFarland CPPS

The Pumas have had some up and downs throughout these five contests. Inconsistent shooting has been the main Achille's heel for them so far this season. However, they have picked up the shooting in the last two games. Also, experience has played a

big role in the Pumas season so far. Two key players for Saint Joseph's College are freshmen Sam Francais and Mace Grier. Obviously, there will be some miscues and problems that the Pumas will have to go through early in this season due to

everyone is trying to get their chemistry right.

The seniors on the team: Mike Lipton, Dayvon Sloan, and Damon Ellison have stepped up big for the Pumas, embracing a leadership role for all the younger players and leading by example as captains.

Ellison just scored 21 and grabbed 8 rebounds in the Pumas 95-77 win over Holy Cross College. Sloan also chipped in 13 points and distributed 6 assists to help the Pumas in their win over Holy Cross.

So, one can see that for the Pumas to be a legit contender this year in the always tough GLVC they are going to need strong play from their freshman and even stronger play and leadership from their seniors.

When Head Assistant Coach Bush said that in order for the

Pumas to have a strong season this year and make some noise in the GLVC, "we have to buy in on defense, which has to be our strongest asset we bring to the table every game."

Bush was also asked if he thought the team could make a run similar to what the team did in the 2009-2010 season when they went to the Elite 8. Bush said, "Yes, I think we can. We have the pieces. We just have to get them to stick together right and buy into our principles. That team had great defense and I think that this team can play really good defense as well if we buy into it."

The Pumas have plenty of potential this year, and it looks as if this will be one exciting year to watch. The Puma's next game is at home against Cedarville University (Ohio) on Thursday, December 6th at 7pm.

Junior D.J. Martinez goes up for the slam against Holy Cross

.Photo courtesy of Fr. Tim McFarland, C.P.P.S.

Indoor Track and Field: Season Preview

By J.J. Miller
Sports Editor

If any of you have gone into the rec center between 4 and 6 p.m. over the last several weeks, you've probably noticed a bunch of people running, jumping, and throwing, all while listening to the sound of SJC Track & Field head coach Bill Massoels's wonderful voice.

That's right, Track & Field season is upon us. After a strong showing during Cross Country, the Pumas now unite as a team in a effort to bring the hardware back home to SJC from the GLVC Championships Meet in February.

For the Pumas, a balance of youth and experience will lead this season. The Lady Pumas will look to 5th year senior Erika Blythe, along with sophomore Danielle Perkins, for big points

in the sprints. In the mid-distance events, junior Kristina Hemerling will be joined by freshmen talents Allison Boyle and Dayton Dellahan, both of whom had successful high school careers. The same distance crew that had success in Cross Country season will be back on the track as well, including leaders senior Kirsten Hart, junior Trisha Hanlon, and sophomore Frehiwet Negassi.

In the field events, the women will look to seniors Taylon Neilsen and A.J. Kepshire in the throws, and sophomore Tiffany McCoy in the jumps. Sophomore pentathlete Sam Nirva is also returning for the Pumas in the hurdles, along with freshmen Alex Meier.

For the men, the sprints will be competitive, with junior Michael Taylor being joined by freshman talents Brian Murr, Deshaun Cobb-Lando, and David

Eubanks. The mid-distance events will see fierce competition from senior Luke McRobbarts, juniors Cole Galloway and Mike Fauser, and freshman Corey White. The distance events will see the fiercest competition of them all, as juniors Richard Kaht and Jacob Carden, along with Patrick Massoels and Logan Barrett take to the track after a strong Cross Country season. In the field events, the men will look to Seniors Alan Austin and Kris Papert, along with sophomores Anthony Bradley and Vince Fisher in the throwing events, while in the jumps, Senior Joe Took is joined by freshman CJ Eikum and newly transfered sophomore vaulter TJ Pelka. Both Pelka and junior Nick Black are prospective heptathletes for the Pumas this season, who lacked anyone in the challenging role last year.

The Pumas will get an early start to their season this year, going to University of Indianapolis for a meet December 8th, just before finals week. The Pumas will then return from Christmas break a week early to prepare for their second meet of the year at Grand Valley State University, on January 11th.

Below: Now Senior Luke McRobbarts receives the baton from now junior Cole Galloway at last year's GLVC Outdoor Track & Field Championship Meet.

Photo courtesy of Fr. Tim McFarland, C.P.P.S.



Puma Athlete Profile



By: Brendon Varallo
Sports Staff Writer

Alexis Rogers is a junior cheerleader from Ann Arbor, Michigan who majors in Biology/Chemistry.

What got you into cheerleading?

"I've been a cheerleader for many years. I enjoy sports and I couldn't think of a better way to cheer for them than to be on the sidelines with them. I have

always had a lot of school pride and being in a sport is one of the best ways to show it."

If you weren't doing this then what would you be doing/playing?

"If I weren't a cheerleader then I would probably be playing volleyball, which is another sport that I've played my whole life."

Have you ever stuck anything up your nose besides your finger?

"No."

Xbox or playstation?

Favorite game and why.

"I don't play video games. I feel as though I can occupy my time in a better way than to sit on the couch not achieving anything."

Have you ever eaten Play-Doh?

"No."

What's your favorite band from the 60's?

"The Beatles."

What's your favorite Jelly

Belly flavor?
"Berry Blue."

If you had to choose another major what would it be?

"I wouldn't. I have had my goal of being a doctor since grade school. Even though my major is tough at times, if I wasn't afraid of my future then my goals aren't high enough."

Know someone that deserves the spotlight? Let us know! E-mail their name and sport to kgt8533@saintjoe.edu or fnt8451@saintjoe.edu.

Fountain Stone
Theaters

Movies for December
6th
(219) 866-2222

Flight (R)
3:50, 6:20

Life of Pi (PG)
4:10

Life of Pi 3D (PG)
6:30

Rise of the Guardians (PG)
4:20

Rise of the Guardians 3D
(PG)
6:50

Skyfall (PG-13)
4:00, 6:10

Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn
Part 2 (PG-13)
4:30, 6:40

Coming Soon:
*The Hobbit: An Unexpected
Journey (NYR), The Guilt Trip
(PG-13), This is 40 (R),
Parental Guidance (PG)*

The Ritz Cinema

Movie for
December 7-13
(219) 866-0086
www.ritzcinema.net
All movies begin at 7:00 M-F
Matinees every day 2:00

Taken 2 (PG13)

Kindhearted Kat and Giddy
Gloria Give Advice

Have questions for Giddy Gloria and Kindhearted Kat? E-mail them to rpt8460@saintjoe.edu!

Dear Kindhearted Kat,

Since I came to college, I've been getting more and more distant from my friends at home. We try to call or Skype, but our schedules just don't work, and our text conversations are cold and impersonal. It's hard to get home to visit at the same time. How can I keep them in my life? Sincerely, An Old Friend

Dear An Old Friend,

It's hard to keep in touch with friends and family after going off to college. Yes, trying to find a common time is difficult, but if you all really do want to stay in touch then you will make it

happen. Texting, although may seem impersonal, can still allow you to have a great conversation, and maybe it might be later at night or earlier in the morning, but Skype is really great so you are able to interact with each other. Just remember whatever effort you put into making it work is what you'll get out of it. Hopefully you and your friends will figure out something. Good luck! Sincerely, Kindhearted Kat

Dear Giddy Gloria,

I have a friend who is trying to get back with someone who was very bad for them. I want to tell her that I think it's a terrible idea, but I don't know how without sounding

like a jerk. What do I do?
Sincerely, Tongue Tied

Dear Tongue Tied,

When the conversation of getting back together with the bad ex comes up, start out by saying: "You deserve so much better." It's obvious you care a great deal for your friend. If she can't see that the relationship was anything but good for her, you need to help her open her eyes. Point out feelings that the ex significant other had caused her to go through and list the reasons as to why the person is "bad." You aren't being a jerk; you're being an honest, but very worried, friend.

One of two things could happen: your friend will listen to your advice and not go back to that relationship, or she will go back to the person she was with, regardless of your advice. If the latter occurs, the person she goes back to will either redeem themselves and treat your friend the way she deserves, or they will be the same and your friend will end up hurt. If she ends up hurt, and you're the one she goes to, avoid an "I told you so," speech. Instead, be there for her, and maybe talk to her about how she should be treated and that she deserves better. She is lucky to have a friend like you!
Sincerely, Giddy Gloria

Over
Heard

*Heard something crazy or scandalous in the cafeteria or around campus?
E-mail rpt8460 with your anonymous submission! You may see it in the next issue.*

Person 1: "This tastes like swamp water. It has the same consistency."
Person 2: When did you drink swamp water?"

"It's like meals on wheels, only you chop their 'you-know-what's' off."

"He was the most forward X-ray technician I've ever had."

"You can't have skinny people on chip commercials!"

"This can is bending, so either I AM Iron Man, or this can is crap."

This Week's
Creative Stuff
from Saint Joseph's very own Creative Writers

Attention Creative Writers! Do you write poetry? Draw cartoons? This section is specifically FOR YOU! If you have something you'd like published in the paper, e-mail it to rpt8460!

Dreams of England
By Kristina Hemmerling
Junior Creative Writing Major

Driving in my car
In the back seat.
Two friends in the front,
Two little dogs with me.
England marketplace
And what do I see?
Not the dogs' owner,
But Logan on a tricycle.
He's wandering around town
Shopping here or there.
I ask him if he's seen the owner,
And he replies, "Where?"
We leave him and keep driving
We stop at a park.
Walking around we see

A meerkat and a lark,
Sitting in a field together
Playing a game.
I didn't know they were friends,
My friends say the same.
As we continue walking
We finally see
The dogs' owner talking
To the police.
We run up and return the dogs
We leave and say goodbye.
We get back in the car
And drive while eating pie.

Art Spotlight
from Saint Joseph's very own Artists

Attention Artists! Do you draw? Paint? Cartoon? Or photograph? This section is specifically FOR YOU! Not an Art Major? Don't worry! We want to publish YOUR WORK! E-mail rpt8460 for more information!

The Violinist
Shayna Polomchak, Senior Art Major
featuring senior Jenifer Gifford on the violin

